(e) what action has been taken by Government to check the spread of TB in the country; and

(f) whether the drugs and the BCG vaccine to control TB are available in sufficient quantities in the country at prices within the reach of the common man?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, Tuberculosis is not a notifiable disease nor reliable data regarding the exact number of deaths which occur due to TB disease in the country annually are available. However, on the basis of limited studies conducted in the field area of National TB Institute, Bangalore, it has been observed that the mortality rate due to tuberculosis which was estimated to be about 80 per, 100,000 population in early 1970s, has now come down to about 53 per 100,000 population. Similar studies conducted by the New Delhi TB Centre in the Union Territory of Delhi indicates that the mortality rate have come down to about 40 per 100,000 population.

(c) A Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of late Col. R .Vishwanathan observed that much headway has been made in regard to the organization of comprehensive TB control programme in the country and that it is neither necessary nor feasible to change general pattern of the existing oranization for TB control which at present is based mainly on the District Control Programme. An in-built mechanisation of evaluation has also been laid under the National TB Control Programme, whereby detailed work reports of the indiviaual districts TB Centres from all over the country are obtained on quarterly basis by the National TB Institute at Bangalore so that the performance of the individual district TB Centre is assessed regularly.

(d) No, Sir. There was no objective laid down for control of TB in the country up to 1978. The objective was to meet the health needs of the suffering population and reduce death rate. With the implementation of District TB Control Programme more and more number of unknown TB cases are being detected and treated every year.

(e) Under the National TB Control Programme the treatment, diagnostic and preventive facilities in the existing medical and health institution located in the districts are being established in every district of the country. 364 major districts have been provided with equipped and staffed district TB Centres. In addition, there are another about 300 TB clinics which are participating in TB case detection and treatment facilities. The BCG vaccine is also being offered to the new borns and infants as a component of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation.

(f) Anti-TB drugs for free treatment of the TB patients are being supplied to all the District TB Centres run by the State Governments and to the TB Clinics run by the Voluntary Bodies. In addition the State Govts. etc. are also procuring ing anti-TB drugs as per the requirements out of their own budget so that sufficient quantities of drugs for treatment of TB patients is made available at each of the institutions. BCG vaccine is being supplied free of cost to the State|UTs. etc. as a part of EPI Programme for giving to the new borns and infants.

Measures for reducing diarrhoeal deaths

129. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the *Indian Express* of the 20 March, 1986 under the caption "Urgency of reducing diarrhoeal deaths" and state;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 500 infants out of every 1000 and 200 preschool children out of 1000 die because of acute diarrhoeal disease; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to check the incidents o f diarrhoeal deaths of infants and children in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news report.

(b) No, Sir. As per information of Registrar General of India, 1.4 and 9.9 per cent of the deaths in the age group of 0 to 1 and 1 to 4 respectively are caused by Gastroenterities.

(c) To check the incidence of diarrhoeal deaths oral rehydration therapy is being promoted as preventive measures for dehydration through health educational programme of the community and training of all health workers. Oral rehydration salts are being supplied to the village heatlh guides and sub-centres. In addition an intensive programme for promotion of oral rehydration therapy is being launched during the current plan period.

Policy regarding allotment of book stalls

130. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's present **Policy regardin gallotment of book stalls** on the platforms of various railway stations in the country;

(b) what is present number of book stall contracts awarded to the unemployed graduates by the railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that M|s .A. H. Wheeler and Company Pvt. Ltd., are enjoying a monopoly in railway book stall business on 8 zones out of 9 zones of Railways wilhout any break;

(d) whether it is a fact that the entire contract of M|s. A. H. Wheeler and Company for sole selling rights on book stalls in platforms has been renewed for a period of 9 years from the 1st January, 1985 to 31st December, 1993; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor particularly for ignoring the interests of unemployed graduates?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) As per extent instructions, allotment of new book stalls have been reserved for Unemployed Graduates, their partnership Firms, Associations, etc. and Cooperative Societies of actual Workers & Vendors except at stations|Platforms where the existing contractor has the sole selling right under the agreement.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) M|s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. are not having a monopoly. But they have the sole selling rights at those stations which have been specified in their agreements with eight Zonal Railways. Even at those specified stations, the Railways can permit opening of bookstalls by other eligible persons on new platforms (excepting those replaced due to gauge conversion) constructed on|or after 1-1-1976 and the Railways can also permit sale of books etc. published by non-profit making and philanthropic institutions and Government Publications.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) The agreements was renewed keeping in view their performance. The interests of unemployed graduates have not been ignored as explained in reply to part (a) of the Question.

New food packet scheme in trains

131. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains which have been covered by the new food packet scheme; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to introduce the scheme in other trains?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Service of food in disposable aluminium casseroles has already been introduced on 21 pairs of trains.

(b) it has been decided to introduce this service in 9 more pairs of trains.